

# USDA Forest Service

## 2010 Fire Season Key Messages

### 1. Landscape Restoration

- Millions of acres of forests and grasslands are at risk of extreme wildfire due to overcrowded stands of trees, insect infestations, invasions of non-native species, and climate change.
- Extreme fire risks lives and the natural resources people need, such as clean, abundant water and clean air.
- Many ecosystems evolved with fire. Under the right conditions, the Forest Service can manage some fires to restore health to ecosystems and prevent heavy accumulations of flammable fuels.
- Prescribed fire and thinning can help prevent extreme fires with minimal impacts to air quality while providing biomass for energy production.
- Ecosystem restoration takes work. Jobs created by forest restoration activities, such as thinning and biomass removal, will strengthen rural economies.

### 2. Fire-Adapted Communities

- Reducing flammable fuels through ecological restoration is key to protecting communities, but it is not enough. Homeowners and communities must prepare private property for wildland fire.
- More people are living near wildlands where fires naturally occur. The Forest Service will continue to help communities learn to live safely with fire and become *fire-adapted communities*.
- Firefighter and public safety are the highest priorities. Regard for human safety will continue to guide fire management decisions and actions.
- Most wildfires are caused by people. The Forest Service will continue to fully suppress all human-caused wildfires and actively promote fire prevention.

### 3. Fire Response

- The Forest Service successfully suppresses almost 98% of wildfires on initial attack.
- The Forest Service will be staffed to provide vigorous fire response with 10,500 firefighters; 1,000 engines; 100 firefighting helicopters; and up to 20 large fixed-wing airtankers.
- Wildfire does not stop at property boundaries. The Forest Service will continue to cooperate with Tribes and other federal, state, and local governments to protect all lands by keeping fire away from communities.
- A single strategy cannot deliver the best results on all parts of some fires. Wildfire managers will use the best strategy on all parts of a fire, depending on forest plan direction, conditions, the values they are protecting, risks to public and firefighter safety, and available firefighting resources.